

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/TJASPER/CF

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CM:JJREILLY

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/SMCONGER

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/JRHEAGEN, DEP DIR

COM/BIC/OIM (INFO)

ARA/ECP/DLACEY (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, TD, GY

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ALUMINUM SMELTER

REF: GEORGETOWN 2029, PORT OF SPAIN 2586

1. KAISER ENGINEERS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH KAISER ALUMINUM, AND NATIONAL SOUTHWIRE WILL SUBMIT SEPARATE PROPOSALS TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON SUBJECT PROJECT. WE UNDERSTAND STUDY, ADDRESSED TO JOINT COMMISSION, WILL EXAMINE VIABILITY OF 75,000 MT/Y SMELTER AT POINT LISAS AS WELL AS 150,000 MT/Y SMELTER IN GUYANA. NEITHER COMPANY WOULD COMMENT ON VIABILITY OF THIS SCHEME AND THERE IS NO INDICATION REGARDING PROJECT TIMETABLE EXCEPT THAT FEASIBILITY STUDY PROPOSALS ARE DUE THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 18.

2. NATIONAL SOUTHWIRE REPORTS THAT BEYOND FEASIBILITY
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STUDY THEIR INTEREST IS IN SELLING COMPANY'S TECHNOLOGY

AND ENGINEERING SERVICES. THEY WOULD NOT COMMENT ON WHETHER COMPANY CONSIDERING EQUITY PARTICIPATION.

3. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT BECHTEL CORPORATION CONTACTED COMMERCE/MEPD FOR INFORMATION ON PROJECT. PURPORTEDLY BECHTEL IS PREPARED TO PRESENT TURN-KEY PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECT. NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ALTHOUGH BECHTEL REPS ARE MEETING WITH MEPD ON OCTOBER 18. WE WILL KEEP EMBASSIES APPRISED OF BECHTEL'S INTENTIONS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSIES CONTINUING TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY SINCE THIS PROJECT NOW SEEMS TO BE MOVING FORWARD. AT THIS STAGE AMERICAN BIDDERS HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED ANY PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH JOINT COMMISSION BUT WE EXPECT THAT AS BID NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED COMPANIES WILL SEEK OUR ASSISTANCE ON THIS HIGHLY VISIBLE REGIONAL PROJECT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE255468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BIC/OED/MEPD/TJASPER/CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760387-1293
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761047/aaaabodz.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GEORGETOWN 2029, 76 PORT OF SPAIN 2586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: ALUMINUM SMELTER
TAGS: BENC, TD, GY
To: PORT OF SPAIN GEORGETOWN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006